

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview. The substance of the interview is set forth in the remarks below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 26, 27, and 29-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,428,565 ("Wisselink") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,683,449 ("Marcade"), further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,344,056 ("Dehdashtian"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 26 includes "at least two limbs extending from either the first or second transition and defining respective openings." As discussed during the interview, the Dehdashtian reference fails to disclose "an endovascular graft that branches from a superior transition zone," as stated in the Office Action at page 4. The Examiner acknowledged that the Dehdashtian reference was cited in error, and agreed that this rejection would be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 26 is in condition for allowance. Claims 27 and 29-41 each depend from claim 26, and therefore are allowable at least as dependent on an allowable base claim.

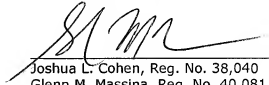
Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Appln. No.: 10/664,595
Amendment Dated February 13, 2009
Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2009

BSI-597US

If the Examiner believes an interview, either personal or telephonic, will advance the prosecution of this matter, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to arrange the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: February 13, 2009

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

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